

What is claimed is:

- 1           1. A method of providing access to hypertext documents in a multi-user  
2 computer environment, the method comprising:  
3           (a) tracking accesses to a plurality of preexisting hypertext documents  
4 by a plurality of users; and  
5           (b) notifying a first user that is currently accessing one of the plurality  
6 of preexisting hypertext documents of the identity of a second user that is  
7 accessing the same hypertext document.
- 1           2. The method of claim 1, wherein tracking accesses to the plurality of  
2 preexisting hypertext document includes maintaining a list of users that access each  
3 hypertext document, and wherein notifying the first user includes notifying the first  
4 user of the identity of each user in the list of users.
- 1           3. The method of claim 2, wherein notifying the first user of the identity of  
2 each user in the list of users includes displaying the list of users to the first user.
- 1           4. The method of claim 2, wherein notifying the first user of the identity of  
2 each user in the list of users includes separately notifying the first user of each user  
3 from the list of users that is no longer accessing the hypertext document.
- 1           5. The method of claim 2, wherein tracking accesses to the hypertext  
2 document further includes removing from the list of users a user that is no longer  
3 accessing the hypertext document.
- 1           6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second user has a home hypertext  
2 document associated therewith, the method further comprising communicating to the  
3 first user a copy of the home hypertext document associated with the second user in  
4 response to user input from the first user.

Sub A2  
1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the first user of the  
2 location of the hypertext document currently being viewed by a third user.

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1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising communicating to the first user  
2 a copy of the hypertext document currently being viewed by the third user.

Sub A3  
1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein tracking accesses to the hypertext  
2 document further includes maintaining a navigation history for the second user, the  
3 navigation history including a set of hypertext documents previously accessed by the  
4 second user.

B1  
1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising notifying the first user of the  
2 set of hypertext documents in the navigation history for the second user.

Sub A4  
1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying a first hypertext  
2 document to the first user, the first hypertext document including a hypertext link to a  
3 second hypertext document that is in the navigation history for the second user,  
4 wherein displaying the first hypertext document includes displaying within the first  
5 hypertext document an indication that the second hypertext document is in the  
6 navigation history for the second user.

B1  
1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the indication includes  
2 displaying the hypertext link to the second hypertext document in a color associated  
3 with the second user.

Sub A5  
1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the first user has associated therewith a  
2 saved user list identifying at least the second user, and wherein notifying the first user  
3 of the identity of the second user includes notifying the first user of whether the  
4 second user is currently active in the multi-user computer environment.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising performing a predetermined  
2 list management operation on the user list in response to user input from the first user,  
3 the predetermined list management operation selected from the group consisting of  
4 adding another user to the user list, removing a user from the user list, sending a  
5 message to a user in the user list, navigating to a hypertext document currently being  
6 viewed by a user from the user list, and navigating to a home hypertext document for  
7 a user from the user list.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 (a) associating a second hypertext document with the second user in  
3 response to user input from the second user; and

4 (b) notifying the first user of the association of the second hypertext  
5 document with the second user.

1 B1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising communicating the second  
2 hypertext document to the first user in response to user input from the first user.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein associating the second hypertext  
2 document with the second user includes storing an identifier for the second hypertext  
3 document in a list of favorite links associated with the second user, and wherein  
4 notifying the first user of the association of the second hypertext document with the  
5 second user includes displaying the list of favorite links to the first user.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein displaying the list of favorite links is  
2 performed responsive to user input received from the first user while the first and  
3 second users are currently viewing the same hypertext document.

1 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising building a list of favorite  
2 links associated with the hypertext document being viewed by the first user by  
3 combining lists of favorite links associated with each user currently viewing the same  
4 hypertext document as the first user.

- 1           20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                 (a) associating a second hypertext document with a first hypertext  
3           document in response to user input from the second user; and  
4                 (b) notifying the first user of the association of the second hypertext  
5           document with the first hypertext document.

- B1  
1           21. The method of claim 20, wherein associating the second hypertext  
2           document with the first hypertext document includes temporarily associating the  
3           second hypertext document with the first hypertext document such that the association  
4           therebetween is discarded whenever the second user is not active in the multi-user  
5           computer environment.

- 1           22. The method of claim 1, wherein tracking accesses to the plurality of  
2           preexisting hypertext documents is performed in a first computer, and wherein at least  
3           a portion of the plurality of preexisting hypertext documents are stored externally  
4           from the multi-user computer environment.

1           23. A method of providing access to hypertext documents in a multi-user  
2 computer environment of the type including a plurality of client computers coupled to  
3 at least one server computer over a network, each client computer associated with a  
4 user, the method comprising:

5                   (a) selectively accessing with the server computer a first hypertext  
6 document among a plurality of hypertext documents in response to an access  
7 request received from a client computer associated with a first user among a  
8 plurality of users, wherein the first hypertext document is stored remotely from  
9 the server computer;

10                   (b) tracking with the server computer accesses to the plurality of  
11 hypertext documents by the plurality of users; and

12                   (c) notifying the first user of the identity of each additional user among  
13 the plurality of users that is also accessing the first hypertext document.

1           24. The method of claim 23, wherein the first hypertext document is stored on  
2 a second server computer, wherein the first and second server computers are coupled  
3 to one another over the Internet.

1 25. An apparatus, comprising:

2 (a) a memory; and

3 (b) a program, resident in the memory, the program configured to  
4 track accesses to a plurality of preexisting documents by a plurality of users,  
5 and to notify a first user among the plurality of users that is currently accessing  
6 one of the plurality of preexisting hypertext documents of the identity of a  
7 second user among the plurality of users that is accessing the same hypertext  
8 document.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the program is further configured to  
2 maintain a list of users that access each hypertext document, and to notify the first  
3 user of the identity of each user in the list of users.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the second user has a home hypertext  
2 document associated therewith, the program further configured to communicate to the  
3 first user a copy of the home hypertext document associated with the second user in  
4 response to user input from the first user.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the program is further configured to  
2 retrieve a navigation history for the second user, the navigation history including a set  
3 of hypertext documents previously accessed by the second user.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the memory is disposed in a server  
2 computer, the apparatus further comprising a client computer coupled to the server  
3 computer, the client computer including a second memory and a second program  
4 resident in the second memory, the second program configured to display a first  
5 hypertext document to the first user, the first hypertext document including a  
6 hypertext link to a second hypertext document that is in the navigation history for the  
7 second user, the second program further configured to display within the first  
8 hypertext document an indication that the second hypertext document is in the  
9 navigation history for the second user.

1           30. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the program is further configured to  
2 associate a second hypertext document with the second user in response to user input  
3 from the second user; and to notify the first user of the association of the second  
4 hypertext document with the second user.

1           31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is further configured to  
2 store an identifier for the second hypertext document in a list of favorite links  
3 associated with the second user.

1           32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is further configured to  
2 build a list of favorite links associated with the hypertext document being viewed by  
3 the first user by combining lists of favorite links associated with each user currently  
4 viewing the same hypertext document as the first user.

1           33. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the program is further configured to  
2 associate a second hypertext document with a first hypertext document in response to  
3 user input from the second user, and to notify the first user of the association of the  
4 second hypertext document with the first hypertext document.

1           34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the program is further configured to  
2 temporarily associate the second hypertext document with the first hypertext  
3 document such that the association therebetween is discarded whenever the second  
4 user is not active.

1           35. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a first computer within  
2 which the memory is disposed, wherein the program is configured to retrieve at least a  
3 portion of the plurality of preexisting hypertext documents from a second computer  
4 remote from the first computer and external from the apparatus.

1           36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the second computer is coupled to the  
2 first computer over the Internet.

1 37. A multi-user data processing system, comprising:

2 (a) a plurality of client computers, each client computer associated  
3 with at least one of a plurality of users;

4 (b) at least one server computer coupled to the plurality of client  
5 computers over an internal network, the server computer further interfaced  
6 with an external network; and

7 (c) a program, resident in the server computer, the program configured  
8 to selectively access a first hypertext document among a plurality of hypertext  
9 documents from the external network in response to an access request received  
10 from a client computer associated with a first user among the plurality of  
11 users, the program further configured to track accesses to the plurality of  
12 hypertext documents by the plurality of users, and to notify the first user of the  
13 identity of each additional user among the plurality of users that is also  
14 accessing the first hypertext document.



- 1 38. A program product, comprising:  
2 (a) a program configured to track accesses to a plurality of preexisting  
3 documents by a plurality of users, and to notify a first user among the plurality  
4 of users that is currently accessing one of the plurality of preexisting hypertext  
5 documents of the identity of a second user among the plurality of users that is  
6 (B) accessing the same hypertext document; and  
7 (b) a signal bearing media bearing the program.

- 1 39. The program product of claim 38, wherein the signal bearing media is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a transmission type media and recordable media.